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The President's Daily Brief

17 March 1970
27

50X1

~~*Top Secret*~~

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

17 March 1970

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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[redacted]

Egypt [redacted]

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50X1

To forestall suspicions that he is somehow linked to the murder of former interior minister Georkatzis, Makarios may try to link up with parliamentary president Clerides, a political associate of Georkatzis. *(Page 2)*

The Soviet [redacted] *(Page 3)*

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The Communist advance continues in Laos. *(Page 4)*

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EGYPT

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CYPRUS

The assassin of former interior minister Georkatzis was a mainland Greek officer commanding Makarios' presidential guard, according to an eyewitness account reaching the US Embassy in Nicosia. Although the officer may have been acting independently, this allegation will reinforce public suspicion that both Athens and Makarios are somehow linked with the assassination.

We cannot yet say just what effect this will have on Makarios' leadership image among his people. One possibility is that he may now be more ready to resume a working relationship with Georkatzis' political associate, parliamentary president Clerides.

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USSR

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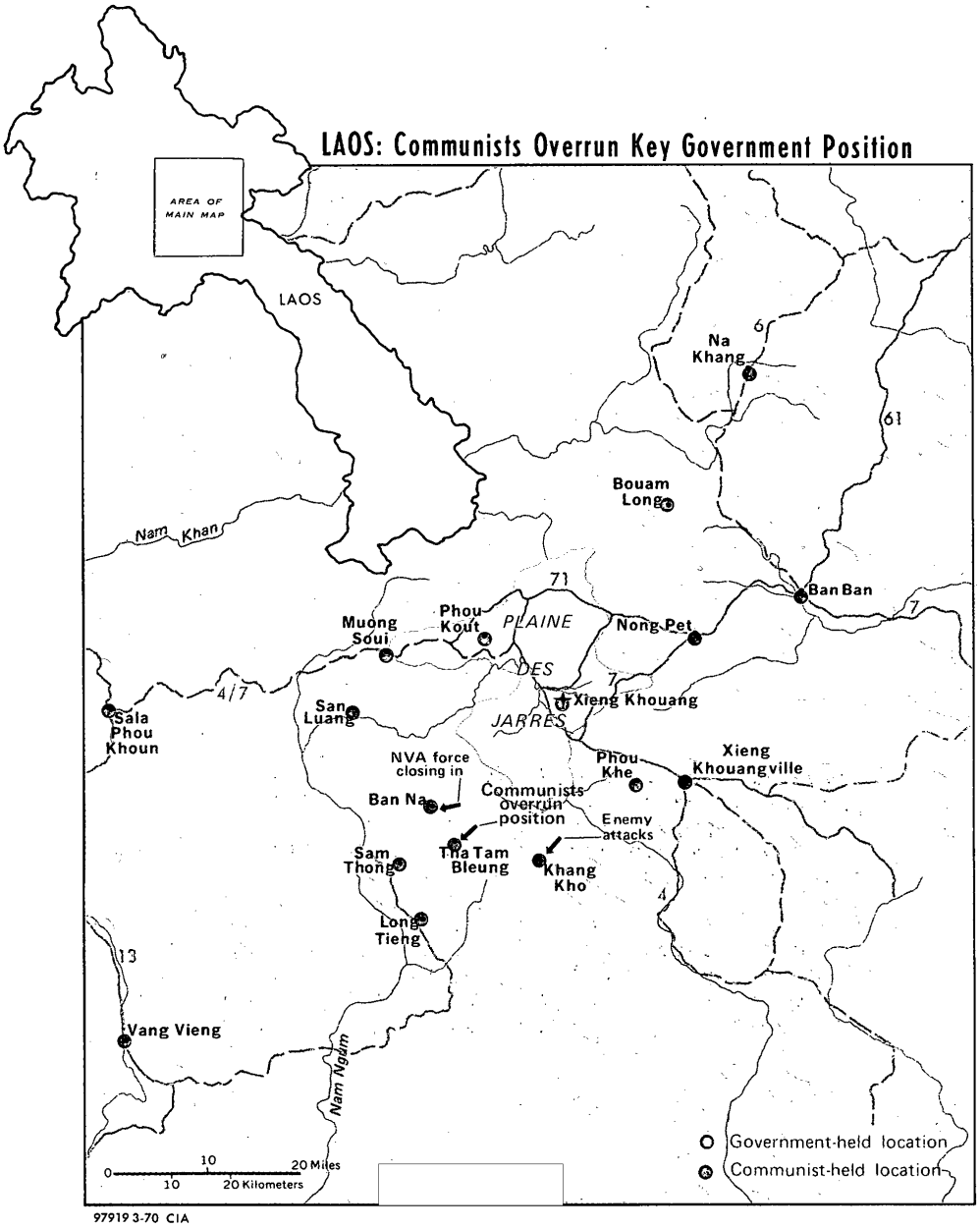

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LAOS

Early in the morning of 17 March--yesterday evening Washington time--a North Vietnamese force overran the government outpost of Tha Tam Bleung. The outpost was a key to the defense of Vang Pao's headquarters at Long Tieng and to the security of the large Meo population nearby. Meo civilians have been pulling out of the area for some two weeks, and this new advance by the Communists will tend to increase the flow of refugees. The general exodus has virtually emptied all the villages northeast of Long Tieng, thus the Communists find it relatively easy to advance undetected.

We doubt that the Communists will advance on Long Tieng immediately. They probably will take the time they need to mop up government elements remaining in nearby outposts. A large force is closing in on Ban Na, and several isolated positions have been lost near Khang Kho recently.

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NOTES

USSR: [redacted] 50X1 0X1

Turkey: Prime Minister Demirel won his vote of confidence by a very narrow margin (see The President's Daily Brief of 13 March). The protracted political crisis has damaged his public image and weakened his position in military circles.

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